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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
STOCKTON, LAURA LYNNE	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1626	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/777,488	MJALLI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Laura L. Stockton	1626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *05 November 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,7-12 and 16-25* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4,7-12 and 16-25* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

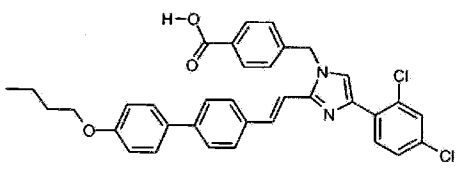
Claims 1-4, 7-12 and 16-25 are pending in the application.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group III (claims 1-46), and the species of Example 320 found on page 287 of the instant specification (reproduced below), in the reply filed on October 27, 2006 was acknowledged in a previous Office Action.

The structure given in the election was actually the structure of Example 320, as stated by Applicant in the Remarks section of the Amendment filed June 18, 2007.

Example 320



4-[2-[2-(4'-butoxy-biphenyl-4-yl)-(E)-vinyl]-4-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-imidazol-1-ylmethyl]-benzoic acid

The requirement was deemed proper and therefore made FINAL in a previous Office Action.

The claims within elected Group III were examined to the extent that they are readable on the elected species of Example 320. Since no prior art was found on the elected species, the examination was previously expanded within elected Group III. The search and examination within a Markush claim is not further expanded when the expanded subject matter can be rejected under any of 35 USC 101, 102, 103 or 112, first paragraph. Since the expanded subject matter under examination is rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, the examination stopped and the rejection has been applied against the claims. Note, M.P.E.P. § 803.02. The subject matter of the expanded search (inclusive of the elected species of Example 320) is as follows:

W is $N(R_2)$;

Ar_1 is an optionally substituted phenyl;

Ar_2 is an optionally substituted phenyl;

T is an optionally substituted phenyl;

L_2 is a direct bond; and

all other variables are as defined.

Subject matter not embraced by the above indicated expanded search are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention(s), there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on October 27, 2006.

Rejections made in the previous Office Action that do not appear below have been overcome by Applicant's amendments to the claims. Therefore, arguments pertaining to these rejections will not be addressed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-4, 7-12 and 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof of a compound of formula (I), does not reasonably provide enablement for a solvate of a compound of formula (I). The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Factors to be considered in making an enablement rejection are summarized as:

a) the quantity of experimentation necessary,

b) the amount of direction or guidance presented,

c) the presence or absence of working examples,

d) the nature of the invention,

e) the state of the prior art,

f) the relative skill of those in the art,

g) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and

h) the breadth of the claims.

In re Colianni, 195 USPQ 150 (CCPA 1977). *In re Rainer*, et al., 146 USPQ 218 (CCPA 1965). *Ex parte Formal*, 230 USPQ 546 (BPAI 1986).

a) Determining if a particular compound would form a solvate would require synthesis and recrystallization of the compound solvate using a variety of solvents, temperatures and humidities. The experimentation for solvates is potentially open-ended.

b) The specification merely mentions the Applicant's intention to make solvates, without teaching the preparation thereof.

c) While the claims recite solvates, no working examples show their formation. As stated in *Morton International Inc. v. Cardinal Chemical Co.*, 28 USPQ2d 1190, 1194 (Fed.Cir. 1993):

> The specification purports to teach, with over fifty examples, the preparation of the claimed compounds ... However ... there is no evidence that such compounds exist ... [T]he examples ... do not produce the postulated compounds ... [T]here is ... no evidence that such compounds even exist.

The specification shows no evidence of the formation and actual existence of solvates. Hence, Applicant must show formation of solvates or limit the claims accordingly.

d) The nature of the invention is chemical synthesis of solvates, which involves chemical reactions.

e) The state of the art recognizes that the formation, composition and therapeutic activity of solvates is unpredictable. The Federal Circuit has

recognized a solvate as an example of a polymorph or pseudopolymorph (emphasis added):

> "Polymorphs" are distinct crystalline structures containing the same molecules. These structural differences can affect various properties of the crystals, such as melting points and hardness (e.g., graphite and diamonds are both crystalline forms of carbon) .... [P]seudopolymorphs are often loosely called polymorphs ... Pseudopolymorphs not only have their molecules arranged differently but also have a slightly different molecular composition. A common type of pseudopolymorph is a solvate, which is a crystal in which the molecules defining the crystal structure "trap" molecules of a solvent. The crystal molecules and the solvent molecules then bond to form an altered crystalline structure.

SmithKline Beecham Corp. v. Apotex Corp., 74 USPQ2d 1398, 1409 (Fed.Cir. 2005). The same rationale obtains for hydrates; solvates in which the solvent is water. Souillac, et al., Characterization of Delivery Systems, Differential Scanning Calorimetry, pages 217-218 (in Encyclopedia of Controlled Drug Delivery, 1999, John Wiley & Sons, pages 212-227), recognize that different

polymorphs of the same drug can have different therapeutic activity (emphasis added):

> Because different polymorphic forms of the same drug exhibit significant differences in their physical characteristics, therapeutic activity from one form to another may be different. Studying the polymorphism of a drug and the relative stability of the different polymorphs is a critical part of pre-formulation development.

Further, Vippagunta et al. (Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews, 48 (2001), pages 3-26) state "Predicting the formation of solvates or hydrates of a compound and the number of molecules of water or solvent incorporated in to the crystal lattice of a compound is complex and difficult." See page 18, section 3.4.

f) The artisan using Applicant's disclosure to prepare the claimed solvates would be, e.g., an experienced process chemist with at least a BS chemistry degree.

g) Chemical reactions are known as unpredictable. *In re Marzocchi, et al.*, 169 USPQ 367, 370 (CCPA 1971);

In re Fisher, 166 USPQ 18, 24 (CCPA 1970). See above regarding the unpredictability of solvate formation.

h) The breadth of the claims includes thousands of compounds of the instant formula (I) as well as presently unknown compounds embraced by the terms solvates. See MPEP 2164.01(a), discussed supra, justifying the conclusion of lack of enablement commensurate with the claims. Undue experimentation will be required to practice Applicant's claimed invention.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed November 5, 2008 have been fully considered. Applicant argues that in a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences years ago, it was found that the formation of solvates is routine in the art. In response, a 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection had been made in the application which was decided by the Board. In the instant application, a 35 USC 112, first

paragraph rejection has been made. Secondly, evidence is given in the instant application which rebuts Applicant's argument that the preparation of solvates is highly routine.

Applicant argues that: (1) the *Wands* factors support Applicant's position that the claims are enabled; (2) the determination of whether a particular compound would form a polymorphic system such as pseudopolymorph which includes solvates and hydrates is routine in the pharmaceutical arts; and (3) the instant specification describes how to make and use the compounds of the present invention and includes over 370 examples.

All of Applicant's arguments have been considered. It is disagreed that the *Wands* factors support Applicant's position that the claims are enabled. It is also disagreed that the preparation of solvates and hydrates is routine. See Vippagunta et al. Applicant states that over 370 examples have been made. In

response, none of these examples, not one, are a solvate of the instant claimed compounds of instant Formula (I). This fact alone would raise doubts in one skilled in the art that solvates of the instant claimed compounds can be made without undue experimentation. 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph states, "The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention." Therefore, the specification must teach how to make and use the invention, not teach how to figure out for oneself how to make and use the invention. *In re Gardner*, 166 U.S.P.Q. 138 (C.C.P.A. 1970). For all the reasons given above, the rejection

is deemed proper and therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory

action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (571) 272-0710. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:15 am to 2:45 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (571) 272-0699.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

The Official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

/Laura L. Stockton/
Laura L. Stockton
Patent Examiner
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Technology Center 1600

January 26, 2009